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Final Unified Command Site Bulletin: Fruitland Magnesium Fire Incident Response – Update 7/11/16

MAYWOOD, CALIF. – The Unified Command for the Fruitland Magnesium Fire Incident in Maywood, Los Angeles County, Calif., has completed residential response and cleanup operations of hazardous materials in the aftermath of the fire that began on June 14, 2016. All necessary cleanup in the residential and public areas has been completed, and all 43 relocated residents have moved back into their homes as of July 11, 2016. Five households remain displaced from the south side of E. 52nd Street, but their homes are safe for re-occupancy. The Unified Command was comprised of representatives from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (DPH), and the Los Angeles County Fire Department Health Hazardous Materials Division (HHMD). With the situation now stable and residents returned to their homes, the Unified Command has been deactivated.

While cleanup work on the fire impacted facilities has not been completed, measures to protect the community from ash and debris have been completed. These measures include: creating a buffer zone between the burned debris and the residential yards, installing a fence with fabric to shield the surrounding community, and applying a sealant and fabric cover over the burned area to prevent ash migration. Work on the facility will proceed after consultation with the facility owner and once a work plan has been approved. Some equipment may remain in the area in the interim.

The local Community Information Center for residents affected by the fire will remain open through at least July 13 for those who have questions on health concerns, incident background, and the cleanup of homes. Experts will be available to answer questions regarding the incident.

Response by the Numbers (Updated 7/11/16)

- 43 households, with a combined total of 196 adults and children, have been notified that they can move back home. Unified Command anticipates that most residents will be back in their homes by today (if this goes out on Tuesday).
- 5 households (total of 22 people) remain temporarily relocated from the South side of E. 52nd St. (for medical reasons only). Their homes are safe for their return.
- All outdoor soil sampling has been completed. Soil sampling was conducted on 24

parcels, including seven parcels on the south side of E. 52nd Street.

- All outdoor cleanup has been completed on 17 parcels requiring cleanup.
- All indoor sampling has been completed.
- Eleven (?) residences were identified as requiring indoor cleaning, and all have been cleaned up. All of these households have been notified that they are approved to move home.
- More than 300 people from 24 federal, state, and local agencies participated in this assessment and cleanup effort.

With the residential phase of this response completed, command and community information trailers will be removed from Fruitland and E 52nd Streets, allowing the roads to be open by Tuesday July 12, 2016. The Unified Command thanks the residents and industry in the area surrounding this incident for their patience and cooperation during this time.

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